



STORYHOUSE

Head Chef



Storyhouse, 2017, Becci Lane

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Welcome from the CEO

Storyhouse is one of the UK's foremost cultural charities; its home in Chester incorporates a library, theatres, and a cinema. It is also an acclaimed theatre producer and runs the country's most successful regional open-air theatre in the city's Grosvenor Park, as well as the innovative Moonlight Flicks open-air cinema each year.

Storyhouse plays an important part of cultural life in Chester and continues to be a beacon of inspiration for many other cities and towns for the role it has played in social and economic regeneration, its successful and unique integration of world-class theatre, cinema, and library facilities, as well as its bold, exciting, diverse, and award-winning programming.

It is also a great place to work. We offer a flexible and supportive working environment, value experience as well as skills and qualifications, and work to ensure everyone in the organisation is aware of our equality and diversity commitments. We want to support all staff to fulfil their potential and enjoy a happy and healthy workplace.

We hope you decide to join us,

Annabel.





Our Story

You can find a bit about who we are on our [website](#), discover more about our innovative home and how it came to be in [this case study](#) by Arts Council England, or read about our renowned library in this [blog](#) by the DCMS's library team.

Above all, Storyhouse is a creative community. As a diverse cultural organisation, our home is one of the country's most successful cultural buildings housing a cinema, theatres and a library. Last year we welcomed 735,000 people through our doors. We are both a community hub and combined arts producer.

Our library attracts international recognition, known for its seamless integration, and boasts the longest opening hours of any UK public library.

In 2022, we supported 5,465 young people to connect and create, ran 200 free rhyme-time sessions, created 499 magical performances indoors and outdoors, sold 101,461 theatre tickets and hosted a total of 1,031 cinema screenings.

Visits are roughly split into thirds between event attendances, library users, and wider participation. We enjoyed the support of over 14k volunteer hours and 1,328 different individuals were involved in making and supporting our work.

Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre, which we founded in 2010, is the UK's largest regional open-air theatre, welcoming over 25,000 every summer.



This House is Your House

We've become a vital part of the region's cultural landscape and a place of safety and support for the community - especially for young people, giving them a space where they can reimagine their place in the world.

Over 40 community groups use us as a base for creative activity each month, including LGBTQIA+ and disability groups, refugee integration activities, mental health support sessions, and groups combatting social exclusion by age.

We work extensively with young people and provide a range of different programmes, from youth theatre and our young company, to young leaders, young programmers, and our many schools and education programmes. Throughout our work we collaborate with local partners throughout to ensure we are reaching the people that would usually have the least opportunity to participate.

Across everything we do, we work to give people the power to build their own creative communities through inspiring stories and shared creative experiences: [this house is your house](#).

As we blend theatre, library, restaurant and cinema services, we share inspiring stories and stage creative events which empower people to nurture their creativity and bring together communities. Through our work, we hope to build a more connected, inclusive and creative community network.

The more open we are to the true and rich diversity of our communities, the more vividly we fulfil our purpose. More engagement from more of our communities will make more of Storyhouse.

We are committed to creating a team which is representative of our communities and to bringing together those with a variety of skills and experiences to help shape what we do and how we work.



Our Strategy...

Storyhouse is about to enter an exciting new phase in our evolution as we look to develop our programmes, based on a new strategic plan, to deliver world class arts and meet community needs.

Our Vision:

Here at Storyhouse, culture is owned by everyone.

Our Mission:

We work every day to be a creative home for our communities.

Our Values:

LISTEN CLOSELY.

True empathy takes effort. So we work hard to understand different points of view.

LOOK AROUND.

Opportunities can be spotted by anyone, anywhere, at anytime. So we always have our eyes, ears and minds wide open.

SPEAK UP.

Not everyone's stories have been told. So we use our voices to amplify those that haven't been heard.

STAND UP.

Debate and discussion make things better for us all. So we don't shy away from a challenge.

REACH OUT.

Diverse perspectives solve the hardest problems and make the best decisions. So we seek them out, and invite them in.



A Midsummer Night's Dream, 2023,
Mark McNulty



Our Resources

Storyhouse is a medium-sized charity with approximately 140 staff and a gross revenue of over £6 million per year. The charity is financially stable, with a number of steady revenue streams, including a 20-year lease and contract for services with the local authority (Cheshire West and Chester) and NPO funding from Arts Council England for 2023 to 2026. Revenue from commercial activities is also essential to the charity's financial stability, and over 57% of its revenue is earned.

Storyhouse runs two wholly owned commercial trading subsidiaries: Storyhouse Production Company Limited - creating and staging Storyhouse Originals theatre productions - and Storyhouse Catering Company Limited - providing a range of catering, retail, cinema, receiving theatre and commercial services.

Despite our financial stability, like all other charities our resources are being eroded by rising costs caused by inflation and higher energy prices, and as a result of the continued cost of living crisis, demand for free-to-access services (such as warm spaces) is increasing.

Our Building

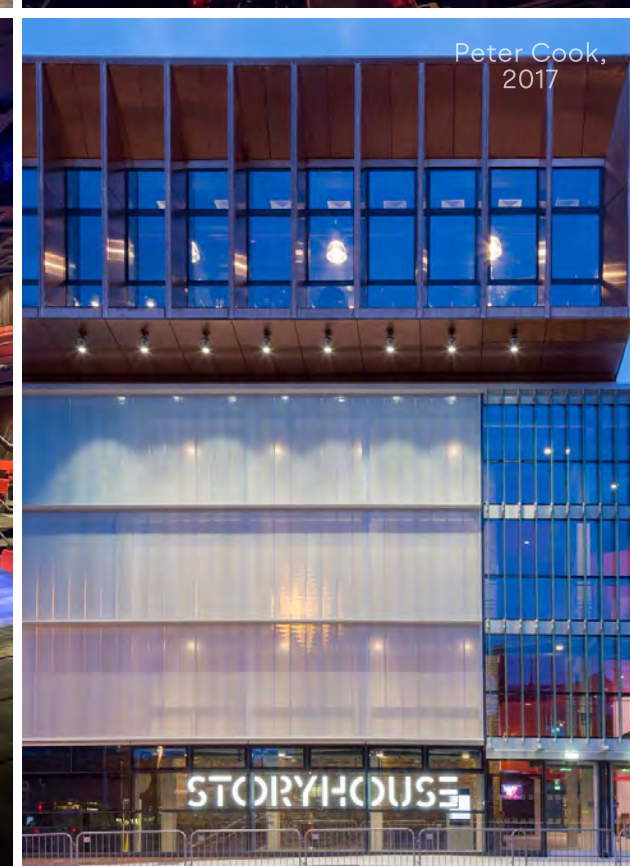
The original parts of Storyhouse were constructed as an art deco Odeon cinema in 1936, and have been restored, extended and renovated into a library, two state of the art theatres, a cinema, restaurant, and two bars.

The larger theatre is an 800-seat proscenium arch stage. With state-of-the-art facilities, its auditorium spreads across three tiers: stalls, circle and gallery. This same theatre converts into a 500-seat thrust stage (with the audience wrapping around three sides of the stage). In this format, the auditorium spreads across two tiers, with intimate seating putting the audience right in amongst the action.

On top of the building sits the Garret Theatre and Bar. This 150-seat black-box theatre is a flexible, fully-equipped performance, rehearsal, or workshop space. It is designed to be full of work made by local creative companies, individuals, and community groups, as well as a space we hire to companies and individuals.

The 100-seat boutique cinema is designed to honour the original Odeon's history as a cinema in 1936. With red velvet, soft, sunken seating, it is a beautiful event space.

The library spreads right through the building, with a dedicated family-friendly area (with wet play, storytelling room, and arts and crafts) in The Den and extensive book-stocks covering the walls throughout Storyhouse offering opportunities for studying, learning, and research.



The Role

As the Head Chef at Storyhouse, you will lead and manage the kitchen team to deliver exceptional culinary experiences, ensuring the highest standards of food quality, safety, and customer satisfaction. The Head Chef is responsible for menu creation, innovation, and ensuring efficient kitchen operations, cost management, and maintaining a clean, safe, and positive work environment

With an emphasis on sustainable and locally sourced ingredients, The Kitchen is open from 8am to 11pm and offers a relaxed atmosphere with excellent service. Food is served from 9am – 7pm in a food hall-style setting with flavours inspired by the Levant, making it the perfect place to break bread with friends and family.

We are looking for an experienced Head Chef to join our team and lead our kitchen operations with expertise and passion. The ideal candidate will possess a deep knowledge of culinary arts, strong leadership skills, and a creative approach to menu development. You will be based at Storyhouse but will also be responsible for the kitchen operations at our summer site in Grosvenor Park.



Role and Responsibilities

You will

- Lead, inspire, and manage the kitchen team, ensuring high performance and motivation.
- Oversee training and development of kitchen staff, fostering a culture of continuous learning.
- Organize work schedules, manage staffing levels, and delegate kitchen tasks effectively.
- Maintain a positive and professional kitchen environment.
- Create and develop seasonal menus that align with the restaurant's vision and customer preferences.
- Incorporate sustainable, locally sourced ingredients where possible.
- Continuously explore new food trends and integrate fresh, inventive flavors into the menu.
- Oversee daily kitchen operations, ensuring smooth and efficient service.
- Ensure all dishes are prepared to the highest quality, meeting food safety and hygiene standards.
- Implement and enforce food safety regulations, working with our health & safety partners to ensure the kitchen are following all regulations.
- Train staff on proper kitchen safety procedures and emergency protocols.
- Keep up to date with food industry regulations and implement necessary adjustments

Role and Responsibilities (continued)

- Oversee kitchen budgets and ensuring the sales targets are met on a weekly basis.
- Conducting a weekly stock take and maximize the GP% target
- Working with Storyhouse sustainable goals and incorporating them into the kitchen practice.
- Establish and maintain strong relationships with suppliers.
- Track stock levels and coordinate ordering to prevent shortages or excess inventory.
- Work closely with the Restaurant Manager to ensure smooth service and customer satisfaction.
- Handle special requests, dietary requirements, and feedback from guests.
- Represent the restaurant in food-related events, promotions, and collaborations.
- Supervise kitchen operations for outdoor events, ensuring the same quality as in-house dining.
- Coordinate logistics, menu planning, and execution for our outdoor theatre catering.

Person Specifications

Experience

Experience in managing a team

Working with local suppliers and products.

Strong knowledge of culinary methods and procedures

Experience in menu development

Experience in working with local authority to achieve a 5* EHO rating

Outdoor catering experience

Demonstrable experience of managing budgets to achieve sales and cost targets

Skills

Food hygiene certificate level 3

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Ability to priorities workload and work effectively to deadlines under pressure

Flexible in approach, and drive to achieve

Mature and positive attitude

Able to adapt to new events and requests

Opportunity and Staff Benefits

Title: Head Chef

Reports to: Head of Commercial and Visitor Experience

Salary: £36,000 per annum

Contract: Permanent, Full time, 40 hours per week

30 days annual leave per year, including bank holidays, increasing annually up to a maximum of 3 extra days

Birthday leave

A defined contribution pension scheme or a People's Pension scheme

Employee Assistance Programme, including Medicash

Cycle to Work and Travel to Work schemes

Flexible working requests available from day one

Discounted gym membership schemes

Complimentary tickets and discounts on food and drink

Company sick pay after qualifying service

Application Process

Applicants are asked to submit a cover letter expressing interest in the role and a CV demonstrating relevant experience online at:
www.storyhouse.com/jobs/

Applications should be submitted by 10am Friday 7th March 2025 with 1st round of interviews being held week commencing 10th March, lead by our Head of Commercial and Head of People.

If successful, the 2nd round will take place in the in the Kitchen over a lunch service to provide insight into how Storyhouse Kitchen operates.

For an informal discussion about the role or support in the application process, please contact our Head of People, Emma Hutt at peopleteam@storyhouse.com.

No agencies please.





GDPR

Personal Data Notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent.

The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

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